

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim [[1]] 4, further including repeating said controlling data feed configurations and broadcasting data content from said feeds ~~steps of b)–e)~~ for each successively activated phase until said agenda terminates.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim [[1]] 4, wherein said data feeds comprise data audio and video feeds, said step of controlling data feed configurations associated with each phase further comprises the steps of:

 checking a current agenda-phase policy; and,

 combining data feeds as specified according to said current agenda-phase policy prior to broadcasting a resulting composite video and/or audio to applicable clients, whereby data feed controls are automatically activated according to an agenda phase policy associated with a new phase activation.

4. (Currently Amended) A The method for conducting an online multi-speaker presentation comprising as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a presentation agenda that specifies a plurality of phases, each phase having a speaker for presenting in a pre-specified order; said agenda including a policy for coordinating data feeds to one or more client devices according to an activated phase;

controlling data feed configurations associated with each phase by activating data feed controls at times associated with an active agenda phase policy; and,

broadcasting data content from said feeds associated with a current phase to one or more connected client devices, whereby many users of the on-line meeting participate according to

feed policies specified by said agenda without users at the client devices having to explicitly select or coordinate the feed controls during the presentation.

generating a graphic representation of the instant state of the presentation, whereby the graphic representation includes a depiction of a current phase and all active users attending the presentation;

providing, in said graphical representation, an overview of said presentation agenda as a linear progression of each said plurality of phases in accordance with said pre-specified order, and graphically depicting within said representation all said active users and an indication of an activity level of each said active users, said level of activity including representing a given active user's focus of attention by indicating which presentation section each user is currently viewing, including prior, current and future phases of said agenda; and,

forwarding said representation to active users at said one or more client devices, each said one or more client devices adapted for receiving and displaying said graphic representation.

5. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 4, further comprising the step of: selecting a new phase whereby the selection is made via said graphical representation provided at that user's client device.

6. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 4, further including steps of:
determining a current active presentation state; and,
updating the graphical representation depicted according to said determined state and broadcasting a latest graphical representation to active users.

7. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising the step of: receiving a user control request to join an on-line multi-speaker presentation or exit said multi-speaker presentation, and, automatically activating or deactivating an audio or video feed for said user accordingly.

8. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising the step of: receiving a user control request to change the presentation's phase to a next phase in the agenda

9. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising the step of: receiving a user control request to create a new multi-speaker presentation instance including specification of the presentation's agenda.

10. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 3, further including the step of: enabling a current speaker to call on another active user who has requested to ask a question, whereby calling on another active user includes activating that user's audio feed.

11. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein said step of calling on another active user includes the step of switching a shared screen to that another user's client device.

12. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said step of controlling data feed configurations further includes the step of accepting connections from speakers and spectators requesting to participate in said presentation.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in Claim [[1]] 4, further comprising: a step of authenticating speakers requesting to participate in said on-line meeting, said step of authenticating comprising the step of determining whether a given user can connect to the presentation.

14. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 13, further including the step of providing at least one user with broadcast rights, and enabling a user to take away one or more said broadcast rights.

15. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said authenticating comprises a step of implementing presentation access control in the form of an ID or password is given to a user.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The online multi-speaker presentation system according to claim [[16]] 25, further comprising a means for determining a current speaker and reconfiguring said data feeds according to an agenda phase specification of the current speaker.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The online multi-speaker presentation system according to claim [[18]] 25, wherein said data feeds are configured to communicate audio, video or combined audio and video data, said system including broadcast means for providing said audio or video or combined audio and video data associated with a phase to one or more connected client devices.

20. (Currently Amended) The online multi-speaker presentation system according to claim 19, wherein ~~server~~ said computer-implemented receiving means connected to said network further includes means for receiving data feeds from a client or data source, checking a current agenda-phase policy, and combining the feeds as is specified, said computer-implemented broadcast means transmitting a resulting composite image and/or audio to the applicable clients.

21. (Currently Amended) The online multi-speaker presentation system according to claim [[18]] 25, wherein an agenda-phase policy specifies a data feed from a non-speaker-related data source be broadcast to one or more clients.

22. (Original) The online multi-speaker presentation system according to claim 21, wherein a non-speaker related data source includes web-accessible streaming video or streaming audio.

23. (Original) The online multi-speaker presentation system according to claim 21, wherein said agenda is implemented as a text file or as an instance of a software object.

24. (Original) The online multi-speaker presentation system according to claim 21, wherein said phases, speakers and feed policies of said agenda determined and spccified at some point in time prior to commencement of said on-line meeting.

25. (Currently Amended) An The online multi-speaker presentation system according to claim 21, further comprising:

a communications network having a plurality of client devices connected thereto; and
a computer implemented means in communication with said network for receiving a
presentation agenda that specifies a plurality of phases, each phase having a speaker for
presenting in a pre-specified order; said agenda including a policy for coordinating data feeds to
one or more client devices according to an activated phase;

a computer implemented means for controlling data feed configurations associated with
each phase by activating data feed controls at times associated with an active agenda phase
policy; and,

a computer implemented means for broadcasting data content from said feeds associated
with a current phase to one or more connected client devices,

whereby many users of the on-line meeting participate according to feed policies
specified by said agenda without users at the client devices having to explicitly select or
coordinate the feed controls during the presentation; and,

a computer-implemented means for generating a graphic representation of the instant
state of the presentation, whereby the graphic representation includes a depiction of a current
phase and all active users attending the presentation, said graphic representation depicting an
overview of said presentation agenda as a linear progression of each said plurality of phases in
accordance with a pre-specified order, and graphically depicting within said representation all
said active users and an indication of an activity level of each said active users, said level of
activity including representing a given active user's focus of attention by indicating which
presentation section each user is currently viewing, including prior, current and future phases of
said agenda;

said server computer-implemented broadcasting means forwarding said representation to
active users at said one or more client devices adapted for receiving and displaying said graphic
representation.

26. – 34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim [[35]] 38, further including repeating said controlling data feed configurations and broadcasting data content from said feeds steps of b) – e) for each successively activated phase until said agenda terminates.

37. (Currently Amended) The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim [[35]] 38, wherein said data feeds comprise data audio and video feeds, said step of controlling data feed configurations associated with each phase further comprises the steps of:

 checking a current agenda-phase policy; and,

 combining data feeds as specified according to said current agenda-phase policy prior to broadcasting a resulting composite video and/or audio to applicable clients, whereby data feed controls are automatically activated according to an agenda phase policy associated with a new phase activation

38. (Currently Amended) A The program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for conducting an online multi-speaker presentation, said method steps as claimed in Claim 35, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a presentation agenda that specifies a plurality of phases, each phase having a speaker for presenting in a pre-specified order; said agenda including a policy for coordinating data feeds to one or more client devices according to an activated phase;

controlling data feed configurations associated with each phase by activating data feed controls at times associated with an active agenda phase policy; and,

broadcasting data content from said feeds associated with a current phase to one or more connected client devices, whereby many users of the on-line meeting participate according to feed policies specified by said agenda without users at the client devices having to explicitly select or coordinate the feed controls during the presentation,

generating a graphic representation of the instant state of the presentation, whereby the graphic representation includes a depiction of a current phase and all active users attending the presentation;

providing, in said graphical representation, an overview of said presentation agenda as a linear progression of each said plurality of phases in accordance with said pre-specified order, and graphically depicting within said representation all said active users and an indication of an activity level of each said active users, said level of activity including representing a given active user's focus of attention by indicating which presentation section each user is currently viewing, including prior, current and future phases of said agenda; and,

forwarding said representation to active users at said one or more client devices, each said one or more client devices adapted for receiving and displaying said graphic representation.

39. (Original) The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 38, further comprising the step of: selecting a new phase whereby the selection is made via said graphical representation provided at that user's client device.

40. (Original) The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 38, further including steps of:

determining a current active presentation state; and,

updating the graphical representation depicted according to said determined state and broadcasting a latest graphical representation to active users.

41. (Original) The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 37, further comprising the step of: receiving a user control request to join an on-line multi-speaker presentation or exit said multi-speaker presentation, and, automatically activating or deactivating an audio or video feed for said user accordingly.

42. (Original) The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 37, further comprising the step of: receiving a user control request to change the presentation's phase to a next phase in the agenda

43. (Original) The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 37, further comprising the step of: receiving a user control request to create a new multi-speaker presentation instance including specification of the presentation's agenda.

44. (Original) The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 37, further including the step of: enabling a current speaker to call on another active user who has requested to ask a question, whereby calling on another active user includes activating that user's audio feed.

45. (New) A method of deploying a computer program product for conducting an online multi-speaker presentation, wherein, when executed, the computer program performs the steps of:

receiving a presentation agenda that specifies a plurality of phases, each phase having a speaker for presenting in a pre-specified order; said agenda including a policy for coordinating data feeds to one or more client devices according to an activated phase;

controlling data feed configurations associated with each phase by activating data feed controls at times associated with an active agenda phase policy; and,

broadcasting data content from said feeds associated with a current phase to one or more connected client devices, whereby many users of the on-line meeting participate according to feed policies specified by said agenda without users at the client devices having to explicitly select or coordinate the feed controls during the presentation,

generating a graphic representation of the instant state of the presentation, whereby the graphic representation includes a depiction of a current phase and all active users attending the presentation;

providing, in said graphical representation, an overview of said presentation agenda as a linear progression of each said plurality of phases in accordance with said pre-specified order, and graphically depicting within said representation all said active users and an indication of an activity level of each said active users, said level of activity including representing a given active user's focus of attention by indicating which presentation section each user is currently viewing, including prior, current and future phases of said agenda; and,

forwarding said representation to active users at said one or more client devices, each said one or more client devices adapted for receiving and displaying said graphic representation.